

Appl. No. 10/695,580
Amdt. dated 9/12/06
Reply to Office action of 6/13/06

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 2-11 are now in the application and are subject to examination. Claim 2, 3 and 4 have been amended. Claim 11 has been added. Claim 1 has been canceled.

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on pages 2-3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 and 2 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0002272 to Suehiro et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,903,243 to Gary under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e).

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's statement in Allowable Subject Matter on pages 3-4 of the Office Action that claims 3-10 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

The rejection and the indication of allowable subject matter have been noted and in order to facilitate prosecution of the instant application, the subject matter of claim 1 has been added to allowable claims 3 and 4. Claim 2 has been made dependent on claim 3 and a new claim 11 has been added which

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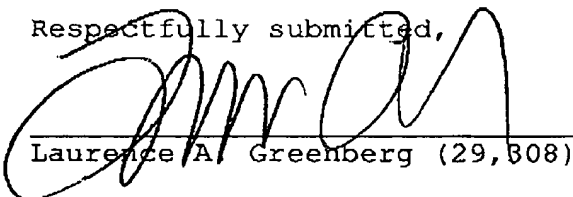
is identical to claim 2, but is dependent on claim 4. The remaining claims are all ultimately dependent on claim 4.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-11 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP. Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 as well.

Respectfully submitted,



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September 12, 2006
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